

Appl. No. : 10/047,460  
Filed : January 14, 2002

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of continuously synthesizing ferrate, comprising:

- a) mixing an iron salt and an oxidizing agent in a mixing chamber to provide a mixture;
- b) delivering at least a portion of the mixture to a reaction chamber;
- c) continuously generating ferrate in the reaction chamber;
- d) delivering at least a portion of the ferrate to a site of use that is proximal to the reaction chamber; and
- e) adding additional iron salt and oxidizing agent to the mixing chamber;

wherein said site of use is a site where said ferrate is contacted with an object to be oxidized, synthesized, disinfected, cleaned, plated, encapsulated, or coagulated by said ferrate.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, further comprising adding a base to the mixture.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, additionally comprising repeating steps (b) through (d).

4 - 20. (CANCELLED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of synthesizing ferrate, comprising:

- a) mixing an aqueous solution comprising an iron salt and an oxidizing agent in a mixing chamber to form a solution of ferrate;
- b) delivering at least a portion of the solution of ferrate to a site of use that is proximal to the mixing chamber;

wherein said site of use is a site where said ferrate is contacted with an object to be oxidized, synthesized, disinfected, cleaned, plated, encapsulated, or coagulated by said ferrate.

22. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 1, wherein said additional iron salt and oxidizing agent in step (e) is added in an amount to substantially replace the portion of the mixture delivered to the reaction chamber.

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23. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 2, wherein said base comprises an ion selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen base, the hydroxide ion, the oxide ion, the carbonate ion, and a combination thereof.

24. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The method of Claim 2, wherein said base is sodium hydroxide.

25. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 1, wherein said iron salt is selected from the group consisting of ferric nitrate, ferrous nitrate, ferric chloride, ferrous chloride, ferric bromide, ferrous bromide, ferric sulfate, ferrous sulfate, ferric phosphate, ferrous phosphate, ferric hydroxide, ferrous hydroxide, ferric oxide, ferrous oxide, ferric hydrogen carbonate, ferrous hydrogen carbonate, ferric carbonate, ferrous carbonate, and a combination thereof.

26. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The method of Claim 1, wherein said iron salt is ferric chloride.

27. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 1, wherein said oxidizing agent comprises at least one of the following: a hypohalite ion, a halite ion, a halate ion, a perhalate ion, ozone, potassium peroxyomonopersulfate, potassium monopersulfate, halogen, a peroxide, a peracid, a salt of a peracid, Caro's acid, and a combination thereof.

28. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The method of Claim 1, wherein said oxidizing agent comprises sodium hypochlorite.

29 - 31. (CANCELLED)

32. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The method of Claim 21, further comprising adding a base to the aqueous solution.

33. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 32, wherein said base comprises an ion selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen base, the hydroxide ion, the oxide ion, the carbonate ion, and a combination thereof.

34. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 21, wherein said iron salt is selected from the group consisting of ferric nitrate, ferrous nitrate, ferric chloride, ferrous chloride, ferric bromide, ferrous bromide, ferric sulfate, ferrous sulfate, ferric phosphate, ferrous phosphate, ferric hydroxide, ferrous hydroxide, ferric oxide, ferrous oxide, ferric hydrogen carbonate, ferrous hydrogen carbonate, ferric carbonate, ferrous carbonate, and a combination thereof.

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35. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 21, wherein said oxidizing agent comprises at least one of the following: a hypohalite ion, a halite ion, a halate ion, a perhalate ion, ozone, potassium peroxyomonopersulfate, potassium monopersulfate, halogen, a peroxide, a peracid, a salt of a peracid, Caro's acid, and a combination thereof.

36. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The method of Claim 21, further comprising adding additional iron salt and oxidizing agent to the mixing chamber in an amount to substantially replace the portion of the aqueous solution delivered to the site of use.

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